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## ENEMIES TO CORN.

Insects Which Injure it in the Field and Crib.

BY EDWARD EVANS WEED.

Director of Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College.

Corn is known in its various stages as shown in Figs. 5 and 6, and is so well known as to need no further description. The eggs for the first brood are laid on the outer leaves of young corn. The young larvae eat holes through the un-

it is but the work of a moment to destroy the larvae within. Later, also, the second brood of worms can be destroyed in a similar manner when the corn has reached the "roasting-ear" stage.

As each larva of the first and second brood which may be destroyed represents the destruction of many more later in

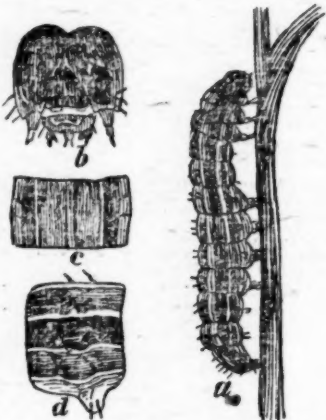


FIG. 7.—SOUTHERN GRASS WORM. a, larva; b and c, side and back of body; d, head; e, c and d, enlarged. (After Riley.)

THE SOUTHERN GRASS WORM.—(*Laphygma frugiperda* Guen.) This insect is known under a variety of common names, more especially as the "Fall army worm." It differs, however, from the true army worm (*Leucania unipuncta* Harv.) and also should not be confused with the cotton leaf-worm (*Aletia argillacea* Hbn.), which is also improperly spoken of as the army worm. In some years the true army worm (*unipuncta*) is very common in the Northern and Middle States, but it is more rare with us. The Southern grass worm, on the other hand, is probably more common with us than in the Northern States.

The larva of the Southern grass worm is shown in Fig. 7, and the mature insect, a dark-colored moth, in Fig. 8. The full-grown larva has a dark-colored body with a yellow stripe on each side, and resembles the various cut-worms in general appearance. The cut-worms feed upon grass more especially, although corn and all kinds of grain come in for their full share of attack when the insects are abundant. In the Southern States there are three broods in a season, and although instances of damage are not rare, yet, as a rule, it is only the larvae of the second and third broods that do any marked damage, and it is on this account that the species has sometimes been called the Fall army worm.

REMEDIES. Paris green, either in a dry form or mixed with water, will kill these caterpillars. When it is applied in a dry



FIG. 8.—SOUTHERN GRASS WORM MOTHS, showing variations. (After Riley.)

form it can be mixed advantageously with fifty parts of flour, slaked lime or road dust, and when applied in the liquid form the proper proportion is one pound of Paris green to 200 gallons of water.

As these caterpillars often occur in a particular field and will go to another as soon as the field has been eaten nearly clean of any growing grain, it is advantageous to plow a deep furrow around a field which joins an attacked field. The worms will all migrate at about the same time and can be easily killed in the furrow by dragging a log through it.

Prof. Morgan, of the Louisiana Station, states: "As these caterpillars feed in the cool of the morning and evening, they may be found upon the outer leaves of the corn, and with a stick and a wide-mouthed vessel great quantities can be hand-picked. Two or three pickings will relieve a field almost entirely, and will be the means of saving the crop."

THE SOUTHERN CORN ROOT WORM.—(*Diabrotica 12-punctata* Olf.) This insect is a general feeder, having many food plants other than corn, such as the cucumber, squash, cow pea and others. The larva works upon the stalk and the main roots, and is sometimes known throughout the South as the "bud worm," and the mature beetles feed also upon the leaves. Fig. 9 illustrates the various stages of this insect, the mature form being a greenish beetle with 12 black spots upon the wing-cases. There are two broods in a

year with us, the second brood being produced upon the cow pea and several wild plants. The mature beetles live over Winter, the eggs for the first brood being laid about the first of May.

### REMEDIES.

There is no practical remedy for this insect, but frequent cultivation and stirring the soil about the roots will greatly aid the plants to withstand attack.

CORN BILL-BUGS.—(*Sphenophorus* Sp.) The natural food plants of these insects are various bulbous grasses, within the large roots of which the larvae feed. The mature beetles damage young corn by feeding on the young leaves and stalks, and if they are numerous in a field the damage done will amount to considerable, for a single small puncture in a young plant will damage the plant much more than many punctures later when the plant is stronger.

Although there are several species of these bill-bugs, they all resemble each other very closely. In their mature form they are black beetles about one-fourth inch in length. One of the beetles is shown enlarged in Fig. 10 and the manner in which it works in bulbous grasses in Fig. 11.

### REMEDIES.

These insects occur only on low, swampy ground, and in such situations a sharp lookout should be kept for their presence as soon as the corn is fairly

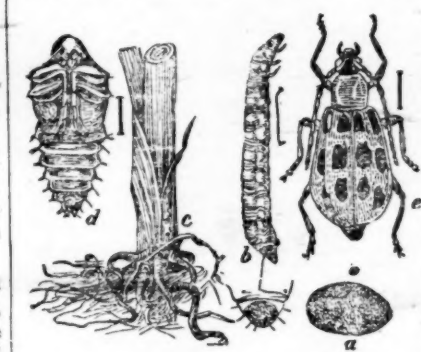


FIG. 9.—THE SOUTHERN CORN ROOT WORM. a, eggs; b, larva; c, corn stalk, showing punctures; d, pupa; e, adult; a, b, d, and e, enlarged. (Insect Life.)

well started in growth. As one beetle may damage several plants, where the beetles occur in small numbers, as is generally the case, hand picking will prevent most of the damage. If the beetles occur in very large numbers, which is seldom the case, however, spraying with Paris green about the base of the stalks is recommended. A replanting will sometimes be necessary and the second planting will be but little if any attacked. Where soil is broken up in the Fall, the beetles will be but little damage the following Spring.

### CUT-WORMS.—(Family Noctuidae.)

These caterpillars are the larvae of night-flying moths. There are many species of these, a common one being that known as "the variegated cut-worm" (*Peridroma saucia* Hbn.) shown in Fig. 12. The moths lay their eggs during the Summer months and the larvae generally feed upon grass during the Summer and Autumn. During Winter they secrete themselves in grass, under boards, and the like, and early in Spring are ready to attack any green vegetation. As they are nearly full grown at this season, they need not be very numerous to do considerable damage. Cut-worms are most numerous in land which has previously been allowed to become grassy. The young larvae feed in the grass during the Autumn, and if the land is not plowed until Spring, the larvae will feed upon almost anything which may be planted on this land.

### REMEDIES.

In gardens it pays well to trap the worms under boards, or to dig and kill them wherever they may be at work. A



FIG. 10.—A CORN BILL BUG. (*Sphenophorus oreochus*). Enlarged. (Insect Life.)

garden late in the day, at intervals of about every five feet. The worms work at night and will be killed by eating up this poisoned mixture. In the corn field, however, it is doubtful if this

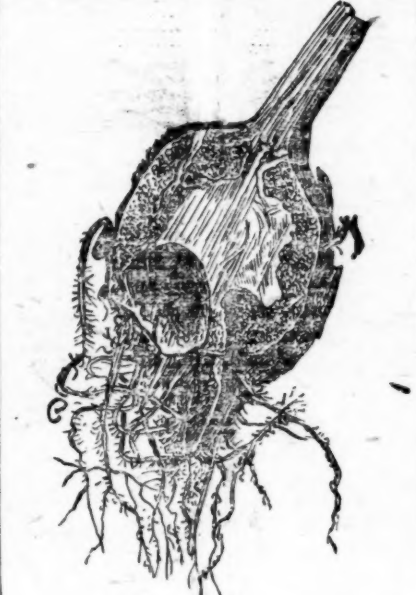


FIG. 11.—BILL BUG at work in the Club Rush. (Insect Life.)

method would pay unless the worms were very numerous. It is perhaps better to plant more seed than is necessary, so as to allow for some of the young plants being destroyed. Soil which is to be planted in corn should be broken up in the Fall, as this will expose many of the cutworms upon the surface, where they will be picked up by birds or die from lack of a food plant.

### THE EUPHORIA CORN BEETLE.—(*Euphoria septentrionalis* Fab.)

This insect is a small black beetle, with light-yellow spots on the wing-cases, which is often found in Autumn either at the top of an ear of corn, or on the inner side of the leaves, near their base where they join the stalk. The beetle is shown twice natural size in Fig. 13. It sometimes feeds upon the leaves and stalk, but as a rule eats only the sweetened moisture to be found between the stalk and the inner base of the leaves. Should they ever be numerous, they can be easily plucked off by hand.

### OTHER INSECTS WHICH INJURE CORN.

Among the more common insects other than those mentioned are the following:

Wire worms (Fig. 14), which are the larvae of the snapping beetles, do much damage in some of the Northern States, but they are comparatively rare in the South and hence do but little damage.

The corn aphid can generally be found in the corn fields, but it rarely occurs in numbers sufficient to cause damage to any extent.

Several species of stalk borers work within the stalk, and where single stalks are noticed which are withered, they

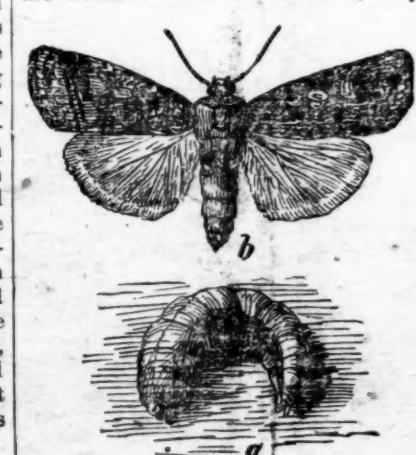


FIG. 12.—THE VARIATED CUTWORM. a, larva; b, moth. (After Riley.)

should be examined to note the cause. Most of these borers live over Winter in the stalk, but if these are gathered in the Fall and used as fodder it will greatly lessen their numbers. With many it is a common practice to leave the stalks in the field until the Spring plowing, and this practice gives the borers a good opportunity to increase.

### SUMMARY OF REMEDIES.

The reader will perhaps have noticed that under the head of remedies for nearly all the foregoing insects, Fall plowing in one way or another has been mentioned. We wish here to call special attention to this point. In this State and throughout many localities of the South, land wastes considerably and all possible means should be taken to prevent this by hillside ditches and the like. With some land it would not be advisable to plow in the Fall, owing to danger of washing, but in the case of soil and land which has been allowed to become grown over with grass, it will pay to break up the soil in the Fall, as it will leave the soil in better condition for working early in the Spring. Fully three-fourths of our injurious insects spend a part of their lives upon or within the ground, and Autumn is the

best time for their destruction. By Fall plowing the larvae and pupae are exposed upon the surface, where they are picked up by the birds, or killed during the Winter by sudden changes of the weather. Many larvae also will die during the Winter from lack of food, and insects which pass the Winter in the ground as pupae are killed by the breaking up of the compact earth surrounding them. Recent investigations regarding the food of birds show that these do immense good in destroying larvae and pupae during the Winter.

When corn is "laid by" too early, the land becomes covered with a thick growth of crab grass and weeds, forming a suitable place for many insects to deposit their eggs. On the Station farm it is our practice to sow cow peas between the rows of corn when the latter is "laid by." This method is practiced principally on account of the effects of the peas as a fertilizer, but at the same time the method has many advantages from an entomological point of view, as the peas attract less insects than would a miscellaneous assortment of weeds and grasses.

Owing to the danger of washing when land is plowed in the Fall, a much better farm practice than Fall plowing consists in the breaking up of sod and other lands during the Summer and planting cow peas, either broadcast or in rows to

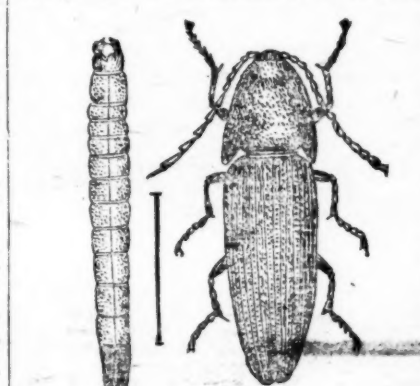


FIG. 14.—A SNAPPING BEETLE. a, larva; b, beetle. (After Krauer.)

be cultivated. This method practically accomplishes the same results as Fall plowing, so far as regards the insects, and considering the great fertilizing value of the peas, the method cannot be too strongly recommended.

### TERRACING FARM LANDS.

The Method Pursued by a Southern Cultivator in Preparing a Hillside for Cultivation.

It is a conceded fact among American farmers that one of the most satisfactory methods to be pursued in preparing a hillside for the cultivation of vegetables or grains, is to terrace the field so that there will be level steps upon which water can rest and be absorbed. This is a very expensive method, as considerable earth has to be dug up and hauled, and it is not advisable to do it unless the earth is very rich, for this rich earth can be mixed with that of an inferior quality, giving you a terraced hillside and a comparatively good field, which was before good for nothing.

In terracing, the lines are run with a spirit level, following the contour of the surface, so as to give a perfectly level line. A furrow is run along this line, and a similar one is run along a lower contour, the distance apart depending entirely upon the nature of the land and the slope of the surface, as in the case of hillside ditches. It is intended to have the land between these two furrows perfectly level, so there will be no possible chance for water to run off over the sides, thus destroying the surface. On a small plan this leveling can easily be done with a small horse shovel, the soil being first broken with a plow, the furrow always being thrown down hill, and the soil gradually worked down to a level plan.

There are several forms of reversible plows, which are admirably adapted to this purpose, being turned readily from a right to a left hand plow, so that in going back and forth the furrow is always turned down hill. It requires, of course, a number of years of such cultivation to get a field even into approximately a level condition, but with patience and thorough cultivation the soil very quickly assumes a comparatively level aspect, and erosion is reduced to a minimum.

This is a more expensive method, according to a Southern cultivator, who is the authority for these suggestions, and if intelligently and diligently done, it is much more efficient and much more durable than to depend upon hillside ditches to prevent erosion. As to hillside ditches, however, unless the work is done exceedingly well and by a competent man who understands his business, it had better be left undone, as it will eventually do serious injury to the field.

—JOHN G. CHALLICE.

## DIGNITY OF FARMING.

Let Every Farmer Feel It and Live Up to It.

(Read at Friedensburg (Pa.) Institute by Lewis H. Fessenden.)

The object of this paper is not for the purpose of giving information, but to try and impress upon the farmer the importance of his calling and the improvement of his home. Success does not depend so much on the occupation as on the man. It matters but little what occupation a man chooses; he succeeds on certain conditions, and these are alike applicable to all vocations, namely, a natural tact or taste, an aggressive nature, a good management, plenty of push, energy and judgment; with these a man will succeed anywhere, without them he will not. With the same amount of capital invested, and possessing the above qualifications, a man will succeed just as well in one calling as another, I care not whether he be a carpenter, farmer, lawyer, or physician; and no one of these callings is so free from petty annoyances, none so free from uncertainties and losses as farming, and none promises so much independence, so much leisure or so many luxuries. It is not the man who expends the most manual labor, and denies himself and family the most comforts, who succeeds best in any calling. It is he who does the best managing, who furnishes the most skill and brain power, who leads in any profession. The mere possession of capital does not qualify a man for being a farmer, nor is there any virtue inherent in a lease to insure his success. To these must be added probity, knowledge of his business, and diligence in prosecuting it.

### THE FRUITS OF GOOD EDUCATION.

And are no more to be looked for without it than good crops without good husbandry. Common-school instruction will, of course, form the ground-work of a farmer's education. It has been the fashion to ask: Of what use is a good education to a farmer? Some people are inclined to say that if a farmer can read, write, and cipher a little, that is all he needs. Now, apart from the benefit which education is to him, in common with other men, to know the structure of language, and to read with intelligence the literature of his profession, which more and more abounds in scientific terminology, I believe that no better discipline for the youthful mind has yet been devised than the classical course which is in use in our best public schools. Of this discipline we desire that every future farmer should have the advantage. But the great difficulty at present lies in finding appropriate occupation for such youths between their 15th and 20th years. In many cases the sons of farmers are during that period put to farm labor. If they are kept steadily at it, and are made proficient in every kind of work performed on a farm, it is a good professional training as far as it goes. The more common one, at least, as regards the sons of farmers, which consists of loitering about without any stated occupation, is about

### THE MOST ABSURD AND PERNICIOUS.

that can well be imagined. Such youths are truly to be pitied, for they are neither inured to bodily labor nor afforded the benefit of a liberal education. It need not surprise anyone that such hapless lads often prove incompetent for the struggles of life, and have to yield their places to more vigorous men, who have enjoyed the benefit of bearing the yoke in their youth. Unless young men are kept at labor, either of mind or of body, until continuous exertion during stated hours, confinement to one place, and prompt obedience to their superiors have ceased to be irksome, there is little hope of their either prospering in business or distinguishing themselves in their profession. Owing to the altered habits of society, there is now less likelihood than ever of such young persons as I am referring to being subjected to that arduous training to bodily labor which was once the universal practice, and hence the necessity for an appropriate course of study to take its place.

### MADE UNNECESSARILY HARD.

The life of the farmer's son and daughter is too often made one of unceasing toil. No opportunity for pleasure, recreation or mental improvement is allowed; none but the barest rudiments of education are afforded. The mind remains uncultured, the better and higher tastes undeveloped. The home is destitute of ornaments, of beauty, of aught that can attract or gratify even the lowest and least developed perception of the fitness of things. The object

seems to be to get out of them all the physical labor they are capable of performing, with no thought or care for their mental nature, and no desire to gratify that love of beauty, pleasure and enjoyment which the Creator has implanted in every human being. The picture is not a pleasant one, but is too often realized in modern life. No wonder that the sons and daughters revolt from such an existence and fly to other pursuits, which they fondly imagine, if requiring no less toil, will be passed amid more congenial surroundings. Give your sons and daughters

### THE BEST AND HIGHEST EDUCATION.

your means can command. They will find that agricultural pursuits, to be successfully conducted, will fully employ the highest talents and the largest mental gifts. With education and cultivation will come an enlarging and elevating of the tastes and capacities for pleasure. These must be gratified. Books, pictures, music—all that goes to make up the aesthetic side of life and to gratify fine tastes—will serve to make home happy, and to make the young reluctant, instead of anxious, to leave its sacred precincts. But it may be said that few farmers can afford to educate their children and gratify their tastes and ornament their houses. Something in this direction can be done by every man, however poor, and the young themselves, if they find that encouragement which they should receive, will aid in the work.

Give your children at home all the means of innocent enjoyment and recreation in your power; by education enlarge their mental horizon; by the cultivation which follows, widen and elevate their tastes; then, so far as in your power lies, make home the center where the tastes thus created find their highest gratification, and the demand for intellectual pabulum finds stores of learning and literature at its command, and you will make each farmer's home a delight to its inmates and a center from which radiates beneficent influences on all within its circle. If you would enjoy a long, peaceful, happy life—one comparatively free from petty annoyances and one in which you will find most leisure for mental and social improvement, and one in which you can enjoy your evenings with your family—I would advise you to stick to your farms, remembering that success in life does not depend alone on the amount of money we accumulate, but upon the amount of development we can bring to ourselves and the good we can do to others.

### GOOD WORK OF FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

Since the organization of the Farmers' Institute nearly every question in relation to agricultural pursuits has been presented, discussed, and printed in the quarterly and annual reports and distributed among the farmers of the State. The information thus given, together with County and local Institutes, has made its mark throughout the State. The Nation has a serious problem to settle. We are living too fast. The rich spend their money to make a show and create a distinction, and try to elevate themselves above the laboring class. The poor, being dependent on their labor for a subsistence, have organized to protect their labor. Hence strikes, lockouts, Socialism and Anarchism is increasing and security in life and property seems to be in danger. Society is drifting in the wrong direction. The dividing line is money and not merit.

The servant is driven to the kitchen, and not permitted to appear in the company of guests nor to eat at the table with the family. To remedy the approaching danger there should be a strong effort made to induce every man to secure a home of his own. There can be no such thing, in the highest sense, as a home unless you own it. There must be an incentive to plant trees, to beautify grounds, to preserve and improve. It elevates a man to own a home. When he hears the word country pronounced he thinks of his home. Contrast the difference between France and Ireland. In the former the occupants are owners of the soil, and peace, contentment and prosperity prevail; in the latter, general discontent. Bring up your sons to be independent through labor, to pursue some business for themselves. When you go to the field, say "Come, boys"; give them

### THE BEST TOOLS TO WORK WITH.

and don't scold and find fault with their work, but encourage them to try and do everything in the best manner. It is a well-established fact that rural homes are the best to bring up good men and women. The duties required teach them habits of industry, and their services are sought after at home and in the city. You can divide mankind

(Continued on second page.)















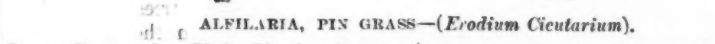
### Pluckings.

## THAYER'S BERRY BULLETIN

Suppose Congress and our Legislatures should cut the wages 40 or 50 per cent.

number of the *Farm and Stock Record* of January 3, 1896, which is published in the County, claims that as wool is not placed on the protected list that this sec-

The ranch I own consists of 10,240 acres of excellent grass land, northeast



The country is being settled by a thrifty class of stockmen, a large number being from the Northern States, and from England, Ireland, Scotland, and Germany. Some old Union soldiers are prosperous ranchmen in the County, and one of them holds one of the most important offices in the County, that of Tax Assessor. I will divide this land up, if necessary, into 640, 320, 160, and 80-acre plots, and will sell at \$1.50 (one dollar and fifty cents) an acre, or I will sell the entire tract at a lower figure, if a number of persons will club together and select one person to purchase the entire tract.—JOHN T. NAGLE, M. D., 47 East Twenty-first Street, New York City.

How often an ingenious person can make some use of cast-off articles about a home, while others would never think of doing anything but throw them aside, says a correspondent in *Country Gentleman*. These little things very often save a great deal of money that is spent unnecessarily each year. The following is one of the many instances of ingenuity in a simple way. The farmer has cast aside a pair of worn-out boots; he needed a handy nail bag; the result was, he cut the lower part of the boot leg off, tacked the lower part to a piece of shingle fitted to the opening (which made the bottom of the bag), then sewed a strap for a handle to the sides, and the bag was read for use.

You want <sup>buy</sup> **Scott's Emulsion**. If you ask your druggist for it <sup>and</sup> *get it*—you can trust <sup>that</sup> *that* man. But if he offers you "something just as good," he will do the same when your doctor writes a prescription for which he wants to get a special effect — play the game of life and death for the sake of a penny or two more profit. *You can't trust that man.* Get what you ask for, and pay for whether it is Scott's Emulsion or anything else.

The early and latter rain is just as welcome as when Jacob courted Rachel. We have had two rains since October, to the amount of nearly two inches. The plows were started, seed put in, and the grain has been struggling along for nearly 40 days, as dry during the day and as cool at night as we could possibly desire. Last night it drizzled to the amount of a quarter of an inch, which puts new life into all vegetation. The mocking bird sings a new song, the bluebird flits from branch to

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Per cent.	of ash.	Potash,	Soda,	Lime,	phosphoric acid.
65	14.0	2.4	86.4	8.3	

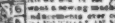
These figures show that the common

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FOR A WHOLE YEAR**

Early decay of the trees.

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## A Sunshiny Face.

Along the noisy city ways  
And in the dreariest of days,  
Perplexed with business fret and jar  
When suddenly a young sweet face  
Looked on my petulance and pain  
And lent it something of its grace  
And charmed it into peace again.

The day was just as blank without  
My neighbors just as cold within  
And truth was just as false of old  
The world was just as full of sin.

But in the light of that young smile  
The world grew pure, the heart grew warm,  
And sunshine gleamed a little while  
Across the darkness of the storm.  
I did not care to seek her name,  
I only said, "God bless her life."  
Thy sweet young grace be still the same,  
Or happy maid or happy wife.  
—Phyllis Brooks.

## A Valentine.

Accept, dear wife, this little token,  
And if between the lines you seek,  
You'll find the love I'm often giving,  
The love I'll always love to speak.

Our little ones are making merry  
With unco ditties rhymed in jest,  
But in these lines, though awkward, very,  
The genuine article is pressed.

You are as fair and sweet and tender,  
Dear, brown-eyed little sweetheart mine,  
As when, a callow youth, and slender,  
I asked to be your Valentine.

What though these years of ours be fleeting?  
What though the youth of years be flown?  
I'll mock old Kronos with repeating  
"I love my love and he alone!"

And when I fall before his reaping,  
And when my entering shroud is dumb,  
Think not my love is ever sleeping,  
But that it waits for you to come.

So take, dear love, this little token,  
And if there speaks in any line  
The sentiment I'd fain have spoken,  
Say, will you kiss your Valentine?  
—Eugene Field.

## ABOUT WOMEN.

**MISS FRANCES ABDULLAH,** the daughter of a prominent Arab chief, is the owner and manager of one of the largest dairies in northwestern India.

**HON. ALICIA AMHURST,** daughter of Lord Amhurst of Hackney, England, has written a book of great interest and value. It is a history of English gardening from the earliest period to the present time.

**MISS ABIE GARDENER** is the only living survivor of the famous Sioux massacre at Lake Okoboji, Iowa, in 1856. Miss Gardener has secured from the Iowa Legislature an appropriation of \$7,000 for a monument to mark the spot, which is soon to be dedicated.

**CLARETTA AVERY, THE TEN-**year-old colored girl who is converting so many whites and blacks in the South by her magnetic preaching, although quite childish when with other children, when in the pulpit she has a ready command of pure and elevated language.

**MRS. M. F. CLENDINNIN, FOR-**merly Miss Gabrielle Greeley, is to undertake a new and authoritative life of her father, Horace Greeley. She has been collecting correspondence and other matter to this end and is completing the work as rapidly as it is possible to review the hundreds of letters and manuscripts sent her.

**MRS. FRANCES HODGSON BUR-**nett, the author of "Little Lord Fauntleroy," was at one time a teacher in a little country school. She was so poor that she earned the stamps with which to mail her first manuscript to the publishers by picking berries. As time went on, however, the tide of affairs changed. Her income is now said to amount to \$80,000 a year.

**MISS CLARA BARTON, THE** President of the Red Cross Society in America, has gone to Turkey to distribute relief to the suffering Armenians. There are with her Mr. Pullman; Stephen Barton, her assistant private secretary; Dr. Hubbell, the field secretary; Dr. and Mrs. Gardner; Dr. Egan, and Ernest Mason. Miss Barton will depend on the missionaries and native Armenians for her corps of assistants when she gets there.

**THE STUDENTS OF WELLESLEY** College have nicknamed it "The Dish Washing Establishment," on account of the formidable amount of instruction in domestic duties that figures in the curriculum. Every graduate knows how to cook, wash and iron, sweep and make beds, and is eminently fitted for domestic life, which is thought to be usually a forgotten factor in the higher education of women.

## Exchange.

To any person, especially the Eastern ladies, who would like a wild-flower garden, if they will send me one pair of black hose, No. 9, ladies' size, I will send them by return mail one packet of wild Mexican poppy seed, one packet of wild sweet-pea seed, one packet of wild pink seed, one packet of wild clematis, and one packet of wild soap-weed seed.

The Mexican poppies are large, round, white flowers with yellow centers; the sweet-peas run up on a stalk; the pinks are little bell-shaped flowers; the clematis is a small bush of wild yellow flowers, and the soap-weed consists of a number of sharp blades forming a bush, and in the center a long stalk with white flowers clustering around it. The seeds will have to be planted in the fall, as they have to freeze in the winter. Please send stamped envelope with the hose. I have looked hard to get the seed, beside helping out on the farm with all kinds of work. —MRS. RAYMOND, Calhan, El Paso County, Colo.

## WOMAN'S WISDOM.

## A Teacher's Plea.

**EDITOR AMERICAN FARMER:** Although a teacher, I was country born and bred, and trust that on these grounds you will allow me the pleasure of a few words in that spot dearest among the recollections of my childhood, the "Farm House."

Much has been said and written of a teacher's duty to her pupils and patrons. This is well, and the duties are important, and many conscientious instructors are meeting them like Spartans. However, there is another side to this question. Just for a minute let the farmers' wives give me audience while I tell them of what I desire of them in behalf of my profession.

Nothing educates like enthusiasm, but a teacher may strive to this advance her pupils and unless they are surrounded in a similar atmosphere at home her earnest efforts are greatly impaired or altogether lost.

Request the children to tell you at night what they have learned during the day; interest yourselves in their lessons and encourage them to studious habits at home. Buy and read with them good books. Your sons will not sigh for busy marts, nor your daughters for Fashion's follies, if you fit their minds for converse with the kindly, good men, who give them the profit of their matchless experiences between the covers of their books. Physiology and hygiene are now universally taught, and when your little ones eagerly tell what "teacher says" about the care of eyes, teeth, hair and finger-nails, encourage them to thus care for these members, thus acquainting them with the laws of self-preservation. Show them that the sweetest smile is unguished if it discloses decayed and foul teeth; the value of the most symmetrical writing is impaired for the teacher if the hand that guides the pen soils the sheet or shows unkept nails. What would you do, O mother, if your house of six were multiplied by six, and therein you found 36 times 36 different degrees of mischief, perversity, stubbornness and maliciousness? Do you not think you would sometimes make a mistake in government? Then, when your Frank is punished at school, you may think unjustly, but do not tell him so. Is it not better that he should be thus slightly wronged than that he should lose respect for his instructor and turn in disgust from the beautiful message she brings him, which lays the foundations of all future knowledge and opens up to his ever-widening gaze new beauties of life, nature and the wisdom of good men?

If the punishment hurts his honor, and not his temper, by all means seek to have it righted in a kind and friendly manner, and do not will prove more ready to assist you than the teacher herself.

Do not regard the teacher as your antagonist, or even with indifference. She is, and so you should regard her, your best friend. Does she not labor for the enlightenment of your children? That means the uplifting of your house and greater security for your old age. You say: "O, you deal with the ideal teacher." Yes; I am thankful there are such teachers. I also deal with the ideal mother, and wish from my soul there were more of them.

One dreary Spring morning, I went, with aching head, to my monotonous task, which, just then, was seeming doubly heavy, thanks to the exertions of a "real" mother.

A bright little lad laid a neatly-written package on my desk, saying, "Mother sent you this." It emitted a delicate aroma, and upon unfolding there lay a bunch of early Spring violets, sweet and crisp and fresh with the scent of the garden and morning dew still upon them. Their cool fragrance eased my aching head. The touch of kindly sympathy filled my heart with pleasure and the troubles of the day were far less formidable than they had given promise of being.

Yet that mother was a busy woman, with many little ones, and had no interest in me aside from the fact that I was her children's teacher. I thank her to this day for the moment she snatched to fashion the little nosegay.

Her children were kind, respectful and studious, demanding my best love and attention, while those of the too "real" mother were willful, hard to please and impatient, although very bright, and under the influence of the kind woman I have mentioned would have been pleasing, indeed. You may make the application for yourselves. Life is made sweet and unselfish by thoughts for others, and children best learn this art by example.

I think, mothers, you will agree with me, and hope you will think of me, not as the ideal teacher, but a farmer's girl of varied experiences, who knows whereof she affirms. —MARY L. SUTTON, Oregon.

## A Cozy Bedroom.

**EDITOR FARMHOUSE:** What is more pleasant to go to after a long, tiresome day? Yes, a cozy bedroom is really cozy! Why is it, when attractive rooms can be fixed up with so little expense?

One of the prettiest bedrooms is one of which the draperies and decorations are old blue and white. Have the walls papered with a creamy-colored paper that has a delicate vine running over it and a bordering to match. The papering, generally, should not be so prominent as to detract from the beauty of the draperies and pictures that hang over it. Buy double-width paper, one or two white, and makes a nice carpeting for such a room. Then comes the bed and bedding, which is the most important thing to be considered, as far as comfort is concerned. Paint the bedstead white; then have a pure white counterpane, and if you use pillow shams use white ones, with some pretty pattern worked on them in old blue wash-silk. A pretty drape for the bed is arranged by attaching a frame about four feet high and as wide as the bed to the back of the headboard, if it is not already a high one. Stretch over this enough plain white cloth to cover it, and it will resemble a canopy; then to the front of the top of this attach a half-diamond (cut lengthwise) made of some light wood. Make two curtains of old blue check-cloth, long enough to reach from the half-diamond on top of the frame to the floor, and hang them on a curtain; drape this back as you would for French window, and the effect will be very pretty. If there is but one window in the room a curtain of the same material as the bed draperies looks nice; but if there is more than one window, curtains of some other dotted or striped look better, as too much of the check-cloth makes the room look cheap.

The usual inexpensive commode, which is made of a drygoods box with a curtain draped around it and a scarf on top, is quite pretty. The curtain and scarf should be white. Work a vine with old blue wash-silk around the edge of the scarf.

For a dressing-table, make a board to fit in crossways of one corner of the room so it will come out about three feet. In front of this hang a white curtain. On the top have a three-cornered scarf to catch the eye on the commode. Then, crossways in the same corner, hang a good-sized mirror, and the dressing-table will be complete. This ought to be in the corner nearest to a window, so the light for the mirror will be good.

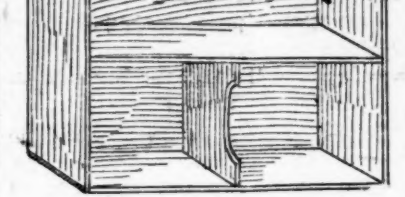
For the chairs, take two or three old ones and a little old rocker and paint them white. Then make cushions for them, covered with cretonne of a creamy ground, with blue flowers scattered over its surface. There should be an ottoman to go with the rocker; paint the sides white and cover the top with cretonne like the cushions.

With a few accessories, such as a pin cushion, mats for both commode and dressing-table, a whisk-broom and its holder, two or three paintings for the walls, and the room will be complete, unless it is large enough for a couch; if so, the inexpensive fold-couch that is described in so many ladies' journals would be pretty as well as cheap. Cover it with cretonne like the cushions and have two or three medium-sized pillows covered with blue and white cretonne. A pretty pattern of white cretonne work. —L. M. P., Colebrook, O.

## A Handy Bookcase.

**EDITOR FARMHOUSE:** Every boy should have a bookcase of his own, and as few boys have enough pocket-money to buy one, I will try and tell you how to make a handy and serviceable one.

First get two boards one inch thick, three feet long, and 10 inches wide. Saw the bottom off square, and plane both edges smooth; then saw the tops as shown in the cut. Next cut a groove half an inch square



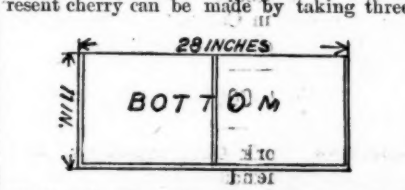
along the inside edge of the back; then cut three half inch grooves across the board for the shelves to rest on. The lower one should be 13 inches from the bottom, the middle one nine inches from the lower one, and top shelf eight inches higher. Be sure that you make both sides alike. Now you will need three boards for shelves. These should be 25 inches long, and nine and one-half inches wide. Cut a groove on the side of the lower shelf half an inch wide, one-quarter of an inch deep, and 12 1/2 inches from either end.

The bottom board should be one inch thick, 28 inches long and 11 inches wide. Cut a groove in the middle to correspond with that in the lower shelf. Measure off an inch margin on both ends, and the front side of the bottom board, and slant this off as seen in the cut.

Next make a partition to fit in the groove between the shelves and board and lower shelf. The partition should be 13 inches long and 9 1/2 inches wide.

The back should be made of half-inch lumber 25 inches long. Round the top off as shown in the cut, and cut the boards so they will fit closely in the grooves at the back of the side piece.

After you have put the bookcase together it should be thoroughly sandpapered, then oiled and varnished. When made and painted, cherry or any other hard wood, and finished neatly, it makes a useful and attractive ornament for a boy's bedroom. It can be made of pine or other soft wood, and stained to suit the taste. A very good stain to represent cherry can be had by taking three



quarts of soft water and four ounces of quarts of brown sugar, and one quart of ammonia is dissolved; then in a piece of cloth the size of a common washcloth, and keep on the fire about half an hour longer, and it is ready for use. Bottle for keeping.

When finished the shelves will be two feet long by nine and a half inches wide. The lower shelf can be used for large books, papers, magazines, etc. —S. H. LABARGE.

## To Keep Clothes White and Clear.

**EDITOR FARMHOUSE:** We have been a subscriber for THE AMERICAN FARMER for nearly a year. We received a sample copy and were so impressed with it we subscribed. I have thought of writing of some of my easy ways in managing my household. In the first place, I would rather use my own work than employ a girl, and use part of the money for labor-saving implements. I have a washer, and use borax soap, and do not boil my clothes. Dissolve the soap and soak the clothes in nearly boiling water and soap for 20 minutes. Then wash in boiling water and wash out, then rinse in very hot water and bluing water and hang out. Have used this process over one year, and it does not injure the clothes and keeps them very clear and white.

I like to hear from different ones on the subject of raising and managing children. I have a large, healthy girl of four and one-half years and a fine baby boy 18 months old. I think out-of-door exercise is one of the secrets of their health. I make all the children's clothes, and find it very pleasant work. —MRS. JNO. A. MACKAY, Ohio.

## Household Hints.

Woolen underwear is cheaper than illness and many times more agreeable. The torn pages of a book may be nicely mended with white tissue paper.

Vocal teachers say that nothing will clear the voice so effectively as eating a ripe, juicy apple just before singing.

If the cover of a fruit jar will not readily come off, invert it and put the top in hot water for a minute or two.

A flat tea-kettle, wide and shallow, in which water can be hurriedly boiled, is a convenience which no housekeeper should be without.

Boots and shoes that have been hardened by water may be made as soft and pliable as when new by thoroughly rubbing them with kerosene.

A covering for the kitchen floor which is easily kept in order is a board of wrong side up, painted with two coats of paint, the last coat being mixed with varnish.

Apple sauce should always be eaten with roast pork, goose, sausages and all rich dishes, as the malic acid neutralizes any excess of chalky matter engendered by eating too much meat.

If the fishy taste in wild game is objectionable, it may be removed by putting a small onion, cut fine, into the water in which it is cooked. Carrots may be used if onions are disliked.

Do not allow a cold to gain a foothold when it may be warded off by drinking cold lemonade. The easiest way to prepare it is to squeeze the juice of a lemon into a cup, sweeten to taste, then fill the cup with hot water and take just before going to bed.

A teaspoonful of borax put in the last water in which clothes are rinsed will whiten them surprisingly. Pound the borax so that it will dissolve easily. This is especially good to remove the yellow that time gives to white garments that have been laid aside for two or three years.

A clever housekeeper avoids long exposure to cold on wash-days in this way: Upon a long strip of heavy cotton she spreads all the handkerchiefs, collars, cuffs, napkins and other small pieces, which are fastened to it with common pins. Then it is folded together and it is only a minute's work to attach it to the clothesline with pins. This plan saves work in hanging up and taking down small articles, and they dry better and cleaner than if clothespins are used.

## BLOOMERS.

## Opinions For and Against the Bifurcated Garment.

**EDITOR FARMHOUSE:** I suppose the Eastern mail must be snowbound somewhere, as we have not had any for some time; but I am going to write my say on the bloomer question, one of the greatest questions for women that "ever was brought up."

By all means let us farmers' wives wear bloomers, especially while we are doing our work or riding a wheel. It seems to me any one who does not help things in this manner is a miser. She looks down and manly, in spite of everything. Now, that is all a foolish notion. If a woman has good health and always looks bright and pleasant, she is just as lovely in a bloomer suit as she ever was in a long skirt. We are living in an age that is not to look to the pale and sickly faces for beauty. Give us bright eyes, rosy cheeks and red lips, the picture of health; that's the kind of pretty women we want in this age. But how are we going to be all this if we go on wearing heavy, long skirts pulling down on our waists, often stepping on them, and many times getting them wet around the bottom and wearing them till they dry?

When I went to the country schools I can truly say my dress skirts and shoes were damp two-thirds of the time, and I know there were a dozen other girls at the schools exactly in the same condition. I think I have paid for it dearly with poor health.

Now, I want to ask all the ladies that do not approve of bloomers, wouldn't it have been easier for our mothers and grandmothers to have dressed in it when in school than to send us to those schools to study our lessons in warm, dry clothing, than to have dressed us in long, damp skirts, to go there and sit for half a day at a time, and take cold after cold, and put in a miserable existence for years as the result? —MANNETTA.

**EDITOR AMERICAN FARMER:** We feel like giving three cheers for our New York sister, Mrs. Helen M. Cwe. She is a woman in the true sense of the word, and does not wish to wear apparel pertaining to man. I think some of our sisters should read what the Bible says about woman's dress, and it might be they would not be so ready to fashion after men's apparel.

As to healthfulness in dress, there are more things than skirts to be considered—the corset and thin shoes, for example. We need not make our skirts so long that they trail in the dirt. It seems to me like the old saying, "Whole hog, or none." Long skirts or bloomers. The skirts, Mrs. Cwe, would be moderately long. No need to be hung from the hips, but with suspenders or waist, as some have already tried, with success and comfort. The corset should be abandoned. Stays in the dresses are quite enough, or a muslin waist with dress-stays in it will enable the dress to fit quite well and have none of the bad effects on the wearer that the corset is sure to have, even if loosely worn, which very seldom is done.

Just wait a while until the fad for bloomers is gone and some other fad takes its place, and we will see how quickly the "bloomer woman" will do the new. We do not believe the greatest enemy to health lies in the skirt, neither do we believe the only road to health is the bloomer. We think the sensible dress described by Mrs. Cwe in your last issue would be both useful and becoming, and say: "God bless the woman who is woman enough to be feminine." A masculine woman is disgusting, to say the least.

Let us picture a woman of about 250 pounds in weight and in bloomers. We imagine she would very much resemble the average clown. If bloomers do more for the health than drugs, as Jennie Wilson claimed, and are not suitable for parlor or street, then 'tis bad for those who are so unfortunate as to have to spend most of their time there. We believe wearing apparel that is not suitable for either in the kitchen or on the street. Woman should have enough respect for herself to dress neatly at all times, whether at work or idle. Some are too careless of their toilet and save all their nice looks for parlor and street. There would be happy homes if women would, as a rule, be more tidy and motherly in her make-up at home, care for home and its occupants more and less for fashions and worldly comment. Let us dress in such a manner that we may be both comfortable and respectable, and let us have the right to think we cannot dress comfortably and healthfully without wearing bloomers, for we can do both and also be neat and presentable at all times. —ONE OF THE SISTERS, Ladoga, Ind.

**EDITOR FARM HOUSE:** I have felt greatly interested in the letters written on the bloomer question in our valuable Farm House Department. Farmer's wife, South Dakota, has been kind enough to send me a copy of a very sensible way expressed my own opinion. Living on a farm and doing all kinds of housework and a great deal of out-door work, I think the bloomer would be a decided improvement on the present mode of dress. Of course, one does not want to appear loud or in any way eccentric. Women, as a rule, are sensitive beings, but know a good thing when they see it.

Let us for one moment look at the disadvantage of the present style of skirts, forever in the way (it takes a great deal of energy to keep those skirts rolled during wet, disagreeable weather, dragging around the feet, a weight that is not easily carried. A woman goes to bed tired, worn out in body and mind; health is soon broken down, a mere wreck of what a woman ought to be, while the man, who sensibly dresses, last longer, is not so soon worn out, and has years of health and pleasure before him. "But it is not all the dress," someone says; "it is the hurry and worry." But, no; I say, dress a man in the same clothes; how soon would the lords of creation howl down the weight of skirts? Ridiculous! Oh, well, that may be, but it is true, nevertheless.

Now, having looked briefly on one side of the question, let us mention a few of the advantages of the other side—more ease, elasticity of movement, time and energy expended on skirts for something else, and more comfort in every-day work.

Of course, there are women who object, and say the dress of our grandmothers' days is good enough for us. One word in regard to keep those skirts rolled during wet, disagreeable weather, dragging around the feet, a weight that is not easily carried. A woman goes to bed tired, worn out in body and mind; health is soon broken down, a mere wreck of what a woman ought to be, while the man, who sensibly dresses, last longer, is not so soon worn out, and has years of health and pleasure before him. "But it is not all the dress," someone says; "it is the hurry and worry." But, no; I say, dress a man in the same clothes; how soon would the lords of creation howl down the weight of skirts? Ridiculous! Oh, well, that may be, but it is true, nevertheless.

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## HOME TABLE.

## WHITE COOKIES.

One cup sour cream; one-half cup butter; one teaspoon soda; little nutmeg; flour to make a soft dough.

## GINGER SNAPS.

One teaspoon soda; one teaspoon ginger; four tablespoons melted shortening; two tablespoons boiling water; put all into a teacup and fill up with the best Orleans molasses; flour to make a stiff dough.

## LOAF CAKE.

Two cups sugar; one cup butter; one cup milk; three cups flour; two and one-half teaspoons baking powder; whites of two eggs.

## THREE-HOURS-BREAD.

One cake east soaked in a half pint of water; one cup sugar; one cup flour; stir these together and let it get light. Twelve boiled potatoes; mash and add water in which they are boiled. Stir the light yeast, potatoes and water together and let rise. Is ready for use next day. For one loaf of bread take one cup of sponge and one cup of warm water; make into a loaf at once; when light, knead into loaves and let rise again. —MRS. J. C. MACKAY, Ohio.

## FRUIT PUDDING.

One and one-half cups sugar; one cup buttermilk; one pint raisins; one pint currants; one teaspoon soda; cinnamon and allspice; one egg; one-half cup lard or butter; flour to thicken somewhat thicker than for a cake; put in a pudding-bag and boil two and one-half hours.

Sauce: Put a pint of water on to boil, when boiling have ready prepared half a glass of water with two tablespoons of flour, thoroughly mixed; add butter the size of an egg; two tablespoons sugar; grated nutmeg to taste.

## WINTER SHORT CAKE.

Three pints flour; butter to shorten as for pie crust; mix with sweet cream and add two teaspoons baking powder. Roll in two sheets half an inch in thickness. Spread a very little butter upon the lower one, placing it in the pan; put the other upon it and bake. When a little cool lift the top layer and spread a good layer of preserved peaches, or any preserved fruit preferred, upon the under crust and replace the top. Make four layers in a cake.

## BANANA CAKE.

Whites of six eggs or three whole ones; one cup of cream; three-quarters of a cup of butter; two cups granulated sugar; two teaspoons baking powder; flour to thicken. Bake in three shallow tins. Have ready three nice bananas cut in slices and spread between the layers and on top and whiten just on top of cake. This is a rich cake, but will not keep long. —M. Bethesda, O.

## MEAT BALLS.

One and a half pounds of raw beef chopped fine; season with salt and pepper and a little chopped onion; mix well with a raw egg, roll into small balls, roll in flour and fry in hot butter.

## BUNS.

Break an egg into a cup and fill with sweet milk; mix with half cup yeast, half cup butter, one cup sugar, enough flour to make a soft dough, flavor with nutmeg; let it rise till very light, then mould into buns, with a pound of currants; let rise a second time in pan, bake, and when nearly done glaze with a little molasses and milk.

## SPANISH SAUCE.

One-half cup boiling water; one teaspoon cornstarch; two teaspoons vinegar; one teaspoon butter; one cup sugar, and half a nutmeg. —MRS. LIZZIE LOHN, Kansas.

## ETHEL'S FRUIT CAKE.

One cup sugar; one cup molasses; one cup thick sour cream; one egg; one small tablespoon ginger; one teaspoon each of cinnamon and cloves; two teaspoons raisins; one rounded teaspoon saleratus; flour to make a smooth batter.

## ROLL JELLY CAKE.

Four eggs; one cup sugar; one tablespoon cold water; one and one-third cups flour; one teaspoon baking powder; one teaspoon lemon extract; bake in long dripping-pan; when done spread thickly with jelly and roll. —Miss CORA PETERSON, Iowa.

## ESCALOPED TOMATOES.

Rub into an earthen baking-dish a layer of bread or cracker crumbs, dot with tiny bits of butter, put in a layer of canned tomatoes, season with salt, pepper, and sugar, if liked; now another layer of crumbs, seasoned as before, and continue with alternate layers of crumbs and tomatoes till the dish is nearly full; spread bread crumbs, with bits of butter, for the top layer. Bake an hour.

## BAKED APPLES WITH LEMON.

Select 12 sound cooking-apples, remove the blossom end, wipe clean, and put them in a baking-pan and pour over them one cup boiling water and sprinkle over them one tablespoon sugar. Invert a pan over them and bake till tender; let cool in juice, pile in a glass fruit bowl, and pour over all juice and grated rind of one large lemon, and sprinkle with sugar.







